



General Assembly

February Session, 2012

Raised Bill No. 5446

LCO No. 2056

02056_____ENV

Referred to Committee on Environment

Introduced by:
(ENV)

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE PAYMENT PROCEDURE FOR THE
STERILIZATION AND VACCINATION OF CERTAIN DOGS AND CATS
AND PROVIDING FOR ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER TRAINING.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 22-380f of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
3 *October 1, 2012*):

4 (a) No pound shall sell or give away any unspayed or unneutered
5 dog or cat to any person unless such pound receives forty-five dollars
6 from the person buying or adopting such dog or cat. Funds received
7 pursuant to this section shall be paid quarterly by the municipality
8 into the animal population control account established under section
9 22-380g. At the time of receipt of such payment, the pound shall
10 [provide] complete a voucher, for the purpose of [sterilization and
11 vaccination] benefits, as provided in section 22-380i, for the
12 sterilization and vaccination of such dog or cat and (1) provide the
13 voucher to the person buying or adopting such dog or cat, [. Such] or
14 (2) retain such voucher and submit it to a participating veterinarian for
15 such sterilization and vaccination before releasing the dog or cat to the

16 person buying or adopting the dog or cat. Any such voucher shall be
17 on a form provided by the commissioner and signed (A) by the eligible
18 owner if the voucher is provided to the person buying or adopting the
19 dog or cat, or (B) by a representative of the pound if the pound retains
20 the voucher. Such voucher shall become void after sixty days from the
21 date of purchase or adoption unless a participating veterinarian
22 certifies that the dog or cat is medically unfit for surgery. Such
23 certification shall be on a form provided by the commissioner and
24 specify a date by which such dog or cat may be fit for sterilization. If
25 the surgery is performed more than thirty days after such specified
26 date, the voucher shall become void. In the case of a dog or cat that has
27 been previously sterilized or is permanently medically unfit for
28 sterilization, as determined by a participating veterinarian, the
29 voucher shall be void and the eligible owner may apply to the
30 commissioner for a refund in the amount of forty-five dollars. If a dog
31 or cat has not been purchased or adopted from a pound and has
32 pyometra, a representative of the pound may complete a voucher, for
33 the purpose of benefits, as provided in section 22-380i, and submit
34 such voucher to a participating veterinarian for the sterilization and
35 vaccination of such dog or cat.

36 Sec. 2. Section 22-328 of the general statutes is repealed and the
37 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

38 (a) The commissioner is authorized to enforce the provisions of this
39 chapter and chapters 436 and 436a and the regulations adopted
40 thereunder in accordance with the provisions of such chapters and
41 chapter 54.

42 (b) The commissioner shall appoint, as provided by chapter 67: (1) A
43 Chief State Animal Control Officer; (2) an Assistant Chief State Animal
44 Control Officer, who shall perform all the duties of the Chief State
45 Animal Control Officer in such officer's absence or inability, or at such
46 officer's direction; and (3) not more than twelve state animal control
47 officers and as many regional animal control officers and assistants as

48 may be deemed necessary to insure, subject to the commissioner's
49 direction, the enforcement of the provisions of this chapter and
50 chapters 436 and 436a and the enforcement of regulations adopted by
51 the commissioner. The expenses incurred in the administration of this
52 chapter and chapters 436 and 436a shall be paid from dog funds in the
53 custody of the State Treasurer which have been received from the
54 several municipalities and from the commissioner for the same fiscal
55 year as the expenses are incurred.

56 (c) No person may begin serving in the position of animal control
57 officer on or after July 1, 2012, unless such person (1) has completed a
58 training program that meets the requirements of subsection (d) of this
59 section and received a certificate of such completion from the
60 commissioner pursuant to subsection (e) of this section, or (2) submits
61 an affidavit to the commissioner agreeing to complete such a training
62 program not later than one year after beginning such position. The
63 commissioner shall reimburse each person completing such a training
64 program for the costs of the program, from the animal population
65 control account established in section 22-380g.

66 (d) Not later than July 1, 2012, the commissioner shall prescribe the
67 standards and curriculum for a training program for persons
68 interested in serving in the position of animal control officer or
69 appointed on or after July 1, 2012, to such position. Such training
70 program shall consist of at least eighty hours of instruction. The
71 curriculum for such program shall include the following topics:

72 (1) Animal identification;

73 (2) State laws governing animal control and protection and animal
74 cruelty;

75 (3) Animal health and disease recognition, control and prevention;

76 (4) The humane care and treatment of animals;

77 (5) Standards for care and control of animals in an animal shelter;

78 (6) Standards and procedures for the transportation of animals;

79 (7) Principles and procedures for capturing and handling stray
80 domestic animals and wildlife, including principles and procedures to
81 be followed with respect to an instrument used specifically for
82 detering the bite of an animal;

83 (8) First aid for injured animals;

84 (9) Documentation of animal cruelty evidence and courtroom
85 procedures;

86 (10) Animal shelter operations and administrations;

87 (11) Spaying and neutering, microchipping and adoption;

88 (12) Communications and public relations;

89 (13) Search warrants and affidavits;

90 (14) Civil liability for the animal control officer;

91 (15) Crisis intervention and officer safety; and

92 (16) Any other topics pertinent to animal control and animal shelter
93 personnel.

94 (e) Upon satisfactorily completing such training program, a person
95 shall submit evidence of such completion to the commissioner, and the
96 commissioner shall issue a certificate to such officer. The certificate
97 shall contain the person's name, the name of the training program and
98 the date of completion. The commissioner may charge a reasonable fee
99 to cover the cost of issuance of such certificate. The commissioner shall
100 maintain records to document compliance with subsection (c) of this
101 section.

102 (f) Each animal control officer shall complete a minimum of six
103 hours of continuing education related to the duties of an animal

104 control officer in each calendar year. The commissioner shall adopt
105 regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54,
106 concerning the implementation of such continuing education
107 requirement.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2012</i>	22-380f(a)
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	22-328

Statement of Purpose:

To allow pounds to complete and retain vouchers for the purpose of payments to veterinarians for the sterilization and vaccination of certain dogs and cats and to require initial training and continuing education for animal control officers.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]